

Directive

9180.17

1/24/03

INSPECTION OF EXPORT WHEAT LOTS FOR CANADA THISTLE SEED

1. PURPOSE

This directive establishes procedures for examining export wheat shipments to Argentina and Brazil for Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) seeds.

2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This is a new directive.

3. POLICY

The Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS), a program of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), will assist the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) in the issuance of phytosanitary certificates for wheat shipments to Argentina and Brazil by examining these shipments for thistle-like seeds. The service is provided upon request and under the authority of the U.S. Grain Standards Act, as amended. Official personnel will notify APHIS if thistle-like seeds are detected so APHIS may positively identify suspect seed before issuing a phytosanitary certificate since both countries prohibit the importation of Canada thistle seed.

4. PROCEDURE

- a. Basis of Determination. Analyze each subplot for the presence of thistle-like seeds based on a 1,000-gram sample (sample as a whole).
- b. Detecting Thistle-Like Seed. Canada thistle seed is much smaller than a wheat kernel and is easily removed from the analytical sample by using a dockage tester and hand sieves. Check the dockage and the fine material removed with a .064 x 3/8 oblong-hole sieve from the dockage-free sample to facilitate the detection of thistle-like seeds.

- c. Identifying Thistle-Like Seeds. The following photographs depict the relative size of Canada thistle to wheat and compares Canada thistle to Bull thistle (similar in size and appearance).



- d. Reporting Results.

- (1) If a subplot sample does not contain any thistle-like seeds, record "Canada thistle seed – None found" in the "Remarks" section of the inspection log.
- (2) If a subplot sample contains one or more suspect thistle-like seeds that are similar to Canada thistle seeds:
 - (a) Record the number of suspect seeds in the "Remarks" section of the inspection log along with who was notified and when.
 - (b) Notify the exporter of the number of suspected seeds detected.
 - (c) Notify the local APHIS office. APHIS will provide positive identification of the suspect seeds.
- (3) Field office/federal-state managers will coordinate the efficient transfer of information/suspect seeds with the local APHIS office.

- e. Certification. FGIS certification is not required.

5. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions regarding this procedure to the Policies and Procedures Branch at (202) 720-0252.

/s/ David Orr

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